

## PRESS RELEASE

Judge Alan Brodbeck, in conjunction with the Northern Division of the Eighth Judicial District Bar Association is proud to announce that they will be participating in the 2009 National Adoption Day. This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Adoption Day, a national day of celebration of adoptive families. National Adoption Day gives the Court an opportunity to open their doors publicly and finalize the adoptions of children from both foster care and private placements.

Since 2000, more than 25,000 children nationwide have had their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day. This year, for the first time, local families, adoption advocates, judges, attorneys, and volunteers, will come together to celebrate adoptions in Holt County. National Adoption Day will be held in the County Courtroom at the Holt County Courthouse on November 5, 2009. It is scheduled to commence starting at 5:00 p.m. To commemorate the day, the court will finalize several new adoptions and also honor adoptions previously held in our court.

The celebration, in addition to the adoption ceremonies, will include testimonials about the rewards of adoption. Representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services will be available to provide additional information about becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent. Every person who has been involved in an adoption is encouraged to attend and celebrate their achievement and to share any lifetime stories they may be willing to provide. Additionally, testimonials from adoptive children and parents will be made. A reception will follow in the courthouse basement lobby.

“As a judge for the past 25 years, the wonderful opportunity to participate and be involved in hundreds of adoptions has been the most pleasant and gratifying aspect of my

career,” said Judge Alan Brodbeck. “The adoptive process is perhaps one of the most remarkable and rewarding in our legal system. Accepting a child in need into your family is one of the greatest gestures of love a person can make.”

Any individual interested in either participating in the National Adoption Day, or attending the ceremony, should feel free to contact Midge Clark, the County Court Clerk Magistrate at (402) 336-1662.

On a national level, the goals of National Adoption Day include the following:

- Finalize adoptions from foster cares in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- Celebrate and honor all families who adopt.
- Raise awareness about the 129,000 children in foster care waiting for adoption.
- Encourage others to adopt children from foster care.
- Build collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts, and advocacy organizations.
- Communicate availability and need for post adoptive services.

For those individuals who are interested in becoming foster parents, there is no better time to learn about the foster care system and about the potential result of becoming an adoptive parent. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services at (402) 336-2750. For more information about adoptions and National Adoption Day, please visit [www.nationaladoptionday.org](http://www.nationaladoptionday.org).